SELECTOR

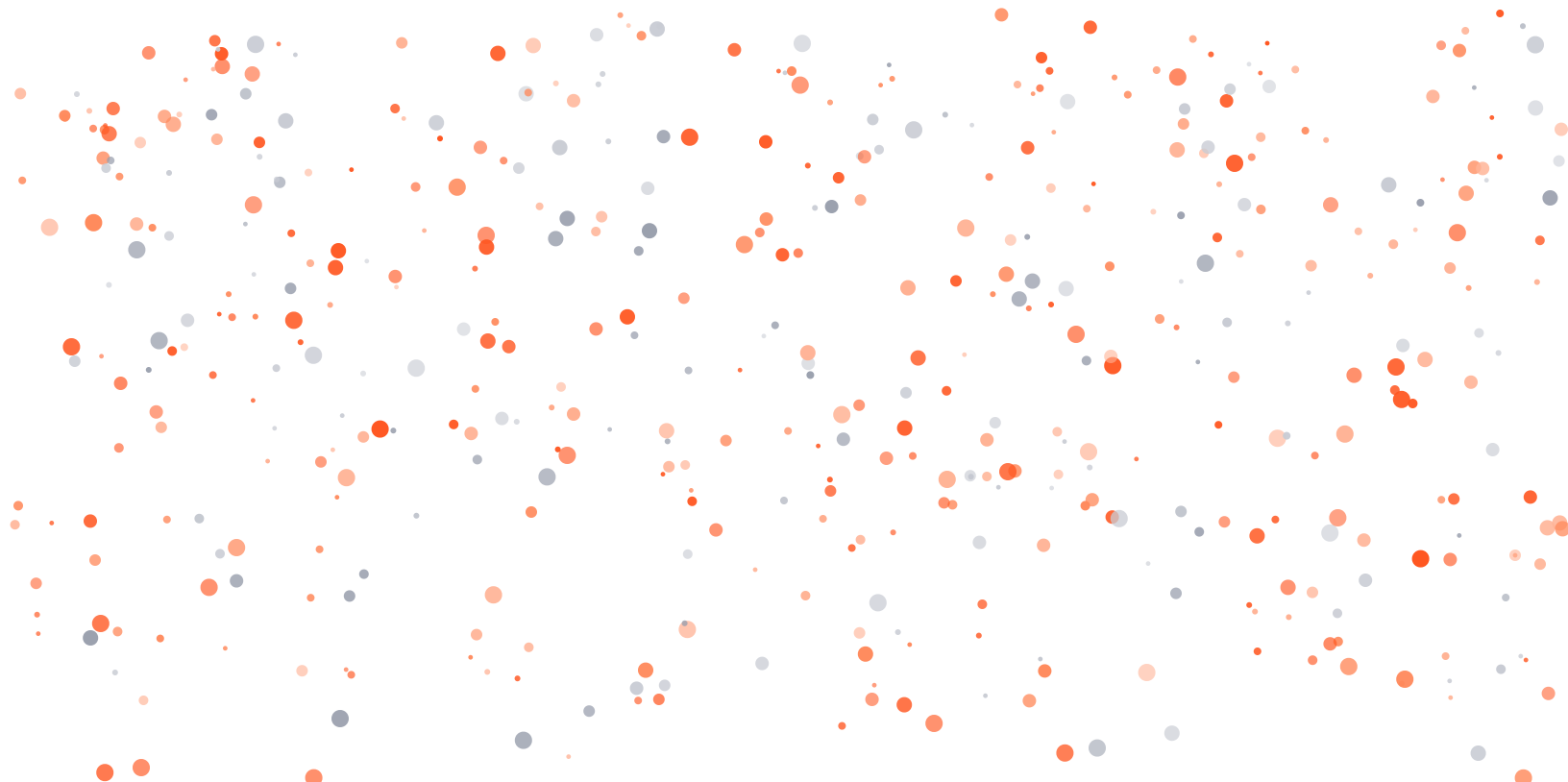
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Technical Comparison

Selector **vs.** Datadog

Observability and Event Intelligence Use Cases

October 2026



How Each Platform Builds Operational Context

Selector collects raw telemetry and operational context together from every vendor, normalizes and enriches it before any model runs, and establishes causation with purpose-built ML before agents act. Datadog is a SaaS observability platform spanning infrastructure, APM, logs, network, security, and digital experience. Network Device Monitoring, Network Path, and Cloud Network Monitoring cover the network, Event Management handles correlation, and Bits AI agents investigate incidents.

Selector

Foundry agents	Rosetta, Loom, TicketMaster, Artist, Herald, Sculptor; MCP and A2A.
Collaboration	Natural language, dashboards, ChatOps, ITSM workflows, query-backed APIs.
Knowledge	Anomaly detection, correlation, causation, forecasting, knowledge graph.
Data Hypervisor	ML schema inference, enrichment, ELT raw preservation, routing.
Collection	Horizontal engines near the source; push and pull; independent scaling.
Sources	Any vendor's devices, cloud, CMDB, IPAM, ITSM, tools, and files.

Datadog

Bits AI	Bits AI SRE and assistant for investigation and remediation suggestions.
Event Management	Event correlation, Watchdog anomaly detection, incident management.
Unified telemetry	Metrics, traces, logs, and network data in one SaaS platform.
Network modules	Network Device Monitoring, NetFlow, Network Path, Cloud Network Monitoring.
Collection	Datadog Agent and integrations; SaaS backend.
Sources	Cloud, containers, hosts, applications, and network devices; 1,000+ integrations.

Where Datadog falls short architecturally:

- **Application-first architecture:** Datadog's data model is built around hosts, services, and traces; network devices are modeled through SNMP profiles. Selector is built for network and infrastructure causation.
- **LLM-led investigation:** Bits AI agents form hypotheses and investigate with language models. Selector establishes root cause with deterministic topology and domain models; LLMs only explain it.
- **SaaS-only, volume-based data:** All data is sent to Datadog's cloud and retention depends on configuration. Selector deploys as SaaS, on-premises, or air-gapped and preserves raw records for replay.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

Multivendor Data Collection

Datadog has broad coverage across cloud, applications, and infrastructure. Selector adds deeper network-native collection: streaming telemetry, routing protocols, and configuration state.

DATA TYPE	SELECTOR	DATADOG
Metrics	SNMP, gNMI and model-driven streaming telemetry, Prometheus-compatible sources, REST APIs.	Agent and integration metrics; SNMP through Network Device Monitoring. **Native gNMI streaming not described.**
Logs	Syslog from any device, infrastructure, or application, structured by ML; Splunk, Logstash, TACACS.	Log Management with pipelines and parsing.
Flow	NetFlow, sFlow, IPFIX from devices or collectors, enriched with application, owner, and criticality.	NetFlow, sFlow, and IPFIX in Network Device Monitoring.
Routing	BGP, BMP/OBMP, and IGP state ingested from customer devices.	BGP neighbor metrics through SNMP profiles. **BMP and IGP ingestion not described.**
Configuration	Running and intended config via NETCONF and CLI; drift correlated with impact.	Network device configuration collection varies by integration. **Drift correlated with impact not described.**
Topology	From SNMP, CDP/LLDP, configuration, and telemetry, across all vendors; digital twin.	Network device topology maps and service maps.
Context	ServiceNow CMDB, NetBox, Nautobot, Infoblox; owner, site, circuit, criticality.	Service catalog, tags, and CMDB integrations.
Hybrid & multicloud	AWS, Azure, Google Cloud APIs, flow logs, transit gateways, VPCs, correlated with on-prem.	Strong: AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, Kubernetes.
Digital experience	ICMP and UDP probes, ThousandEyes, traceroute, custom tests.	Synthetics, RUM, and Network Path.
Files / streams	Kafka, CSV, Excel, Google Sheets.	Ingestion APIs and integrations.

Datadog gaps

- BMP and IGP ingestion not described.
- Native gNMI streaming not described.
- Network device depth depends on SNMP profiles.

Selector value

- Streaming telemetry, flow, routing, configuration, and context from any vendor in one pipeline.
- Routing changes tied to the services they affect, from BMP and IGP state on the customer's own devices.
- Ingestion from files and streams for data with no API.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

Data Normalization and Enrichment

Selector normalizes and enriches every signal before any model runs. Datadog structures data through integrations, tags, and authored log pipelines.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR DATA HYPERVISOR	DATADOG
Schema inference	ML infers structure from free-form logs, syslog, traps, and CLI output; no parsing templates.	Log pipelines, grok parsers, and integration-defined schemas. **ML schema inference not described.**
Entity resolution	Named-entity and clustering models group events across vendor and format variations.	Unified tagging across hosts, services, and devices.
Enrichment	Topology, dependency, owner, site, maintenance state, and criticality added before analysis.	Tags, service catalog, and reference tables.
Data fidelity	ELT: raw data lands with original timestamps; transformation follows.	Retention per data type and indexing configuration. **Network state replay not described.**
Noise suppression	Duplicate, flapping, and irrelevant signals removed before the intelligence layer.	Monitor tuning and Event Management correlation.
Business logic	Maintenance windows, provider notices, suppression, and criticality in YAML via DevOps workflows.	Downtimes, monitors, and workflows.
Customization	S2ML tunes enrichment, labeling, noise rules, prioritization, and LLM output.	Custom metrics, pipelines, and dashboards.
Data access	Every view is a query and can be exposed as an API endpoint; MCP server.	Rich APIs and notebooks; MCP server for Datadog data.

Datadog gaps

- Log structure relies on authored pipelines and grok parsers.
- Retention and indexing are configured per data type.
- Network state replay not described.

Selector value

- Learned normalization: no parsing templates or rules to maintain.
- Raw records retained with original timestamps for replay and re-analysis.
- One enrichment layer applies topology, ownership, maintenance, and criticality to every signal.

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USE CASE 1: OBSERVABILITY

AI-Powered Operational Analytics

Both platforms model telemetry with machine learning. Datadog's strength is application and infrastructure analytics; Selector's is network-native causation across domains.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	DATADOG
Anomaly detection	**Self-supervised, statistical, and regression models.** A model per time series, retrained every 30 minutes, with seasonality.	Watchdog and anomaly monitors.
Log analysis	**Small language models.** Log semantics interpreted, clustered across vendors, and turned into structured events.	Log patterns and anomaly detection.
Prediction	**Forecasting and predictive models.** Capacity forecasting and optical transceiver failure prediction.	Forecast monitors. **Optical failure prediction not described.**
Cross-domain analysis	**One model across domains.** Correlation runs automatically across network, cloud, and application signals.	Strong across application and infrastructure; network devices through NDM.
Natural language	**Rosetta.** Plain-language questions answered with every claim linked to source data.	Bits AI assistant and query generation.

Datadog gaps

- Watchdog anomaly detection is strongest for application and infrastructure metrics.
- Network causation across devices not described.
- Optical failure prediction not described.

Selector value

- Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes detect anomalies no threshold would catch.
- Automatic correlation across network, cloud, and application signals in one model.
- Optical failure prediction and capacity forecasting before impact.

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USE CASE 2: EVENT INTELLIGENCE

Event Correlation and Root Cause

Datadog has strong event management and AI investigation for application-centric incidents. Selector determines network and infrastructure root cause deterministically across every domain.

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	DATADOG
Inputs	Alerts and the raw telemetry, logs, flow, and configuration behind them, correlated together.	Datadog monitors and third-party events in Event Management.
Correlation method	Contextual embeddings and clustering by shared devices, interfaces, IP addresses, topology, and time.	AI-driven event correlation and grouping.
Noise reduction	Up to 99.9% of irrelevant noise removed before correlation.	Event correlation and deduplication.
Root cause	Deterministic causation from topology and domain logic: reboot, then link failure, then BGP flap.	Bits AI SRE hypotheses and Watchdog root cause for services. **Deterministic network causation not described.**
Symptom vs. cause	Downstream effects labeled as consequences, not separate faults, across every domain.	Service dependency analysis for applications. **Network consequence labeling not described.**
Change correlation	Configuration diffs and change events correlated directly with degradation.	Deployment and change tracking.
Evidence and replay	Every finding links to source data; Network DVR replays past network state.	Notebooks and investigation history. **Network state replay not described.**

Selector example

The Loom agent resolved 214 alerts across six tools to a single fiber cut on one long-haul span, labeled routing reconvergence and cloud failover as consequences, and flagged the secondary path at 78% utilization as the next risk.

How Bits AI investigates

Bits AI SRE forms hypotheses with language models and tests them against Datadog data. For network incidents, its view depends on what SNMP profiles and flow collection capture.

Datadog gaps

- Bits AI forms hypotheses with language models; a deterministic causation model is not described.
- Network symptom-versus-cause labeling not described.
- Network state replay not described.

Selector value

- Alert floods collapse into one incident with a named cause, consequences, and next risk.
- Telemetry, logs, flow, and configuration correlated with alerts in one model.
- Every finding is traceable and reproducible with Network DVR.

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USE CASE 2: EVENT INTELLIGENCE

Agents, ITSM, and Governed Action

FUNCTION	SELECTOR FOUNDRY	DATADOG
Investigation	**Rosetta.** Interprets plain-language intent, dispatches agents across domains, returns one cited thread.	**Bits AI SRE.** Autonomous investigation with hypotheses and findings.
Correlation / RCA	**Loom.** Connects time, topology, changes, and domains into one incident with a root cause.	Event Management and Watchdog.
ITSM	**TicketMaster.** Bi-directional ServiceNow sync across the lifecycle, with per-customer field mapping and incident-aware deduplication.	ServiceNow and Jira integrations; Datadog Incident Management.
Communications	**Herald.** Executive briefs, ops updates, and post-incident reports from the verified record.	Incident timelines and status updates.
Custom agents	**Sculptor.** Turns a described playbook into a governed agent with goal, tools, triggers, and approval points.	Workflow Automation and AI features. **Governed agents built from playbooks not described.**
Action	Agents investigate, act, and verify within operator-set limits on high-confidence findings.	Workflow Automation with approvals.
MCP	Production MCP server with OAuth2, granular RBAC over insights, recommendations, and actions.	MCP server for Datadog data.
Deployment	SaaS, on-premises, customer cloud, or air-gapped.	SaaS.

Datadog gaps

- Turning the customer's own playbooks into governed agents is not described.
- SaaS-only platform.
- Network-native remediation depth not described.

Selector value

- Sculptor builds governed agents from the team's own playbooks, acting only on verified findings.
- MCP server shares insights and governed actions with other agent platforms.
- Every Foundry agent is available now, in every deployment model.

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Functionality Gained with Selector

Capabilities a Datadog customer adds with Selector, whether Selector runs alongside Datadog or replaces it.

1. One model across the estate

Network, cloud, application, and context signals from every vendor correlated automatically in one model.

2. Deterministic, network-native diagnosis

Root cause comes from deterministic topology and domain models across network devices, routing, and cloud, not from LLM-formed hypotheses.

3. Detection beyond thresholds

Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes find conditions no static threshold or rule would catch.

4. Streaming and routing depth

gNMI streaming telemetry and BMP/OBMP and IGP analytics from the customer's own devices, plus optical failure prediction.

5. Full-fidelity history

Raw data preserved with original timestamps; Network DVR replays past network state so findings can be verified and re-run.

6. No templates to maintain

Learned normalization infers structure across vendors and formats, replacing parsing rules and custom collection scripts.

7. Your playbooks as agents

Sculptor turns the team's own runbooks into governed agents with approved tools, triggers, approval points, and audit.

8. Governed action through MCP

Selector's MCP server exposes insights, recommendations, and actions to other agent platforms under OAuth2 and RBAC.

9. Custom outcomes with engineers

Forward deployed engineers build integrations, data models, views, and agents on the customer's own data.

10. No rip-and-replace

Selector deploys alongside Datadog and ingests from existing tools and APIs, adding causal root cause and governed agents above them.

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Selector Patents Driving Innovation

The techniques that define the Selector platform are covered by Selector's U.S. patent portfolio. Patent records are available on request.

CAPABILITY	WHAT SELECTOR'S PATENTED APPROACH DELIVERS
Root Cause Analysis	Deterministic causation across every domain.
Reproducible Investigations	Network DVR replays network state so an investigation can be re-run.
Log Intelligence	Structured signal from any vendor's syslog without parsing templates.
Conversational Investigation	Learns each customer's names for sites, services, and devices without manual labeling.
Custom Outcomes on Demand	Declarative query chains for drill-downs and customer-specific views.
Operational Context	Maintenance-window-aware alerting and reporting.
Optical Failure Prediction	Flags failing optics before they cause an outage.
Capacity Planning	Forecasts capacity limits before they affect services.
Scale	Efficient storage and querying of millions of data points per minute.

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Selector vs. Datadog at a Glance

CAPABILITY	SELECTOR	DATADOG
OBSERVABILITY		
Data Collection	Any vendor, including gNMI, BMP/IGP, flow, config, and file sources, in one pipeline.	Broad cloud and app coverage; network via SNMP and flow.
Normalization	Learned schema inference; ELT raw preservation.	Integrations, tags, and pipelines.
Detection	Per-series models retrained every 30 minutes.	Watchdog and anomaly monitors.
Cross-Domain Analysis	Automatic correlation in one model.	Strong for application and infrastructure.
EVENT INTELLIGENCE		
Correlation	Alerts plus the raw telemetry behind them.	Event Management.
Root Cause	Deterministic causation with symptom labeling.	Bits AI hypotheses.
Reproducibility	Network DVR replay; source-linked evidence.	Notebooks.
Custom Agents	Sculptor builds governed agents from playbooks.	Workflows.
MCP	Server for insights, recommendations, and governed actions.	MCP server.
Deployment	SaaS, on-premises, or air-gapped.	SaaS.

The Bottom Line

Datadog is a leading SaaS observability platform with broad cloud, application, and infrastructure coverage, strong event management, and AI-driven investigation.

Selector is built for a different starting point: network-native, deterministic root cause across every domain, raw-data replay, flexible deployment, and governed agents built from your own playbooks.

30 min	99.9%	8x
Model retraining cycle	Noise reduction	Faster resolution per P1

See Selector on your own data

Request a Demo

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